

**In the Specification:**

Please delete the paragraph found on page 5, line 23, through page 6, line 3, of the specification and replace it with the following paragraph:

The configuration of large networks changes frequently due to addition, removal and/or replacement of network devices. To effectively manage large networks such that IP packets are routed correctly over the network, the network manager must know when data forwarding network devices are added or removed. One system used to discover network devices with data forwarding capabilities is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/029,124, filed December 19, 2001, titled "Method and Apparatus for Automatic Discovery of Network Devices with Data Forwarding Capabilities," assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference herein.

Please delete the paragraph found on page 6, line 19, through page 7, line 2, of the specification and replace it with the following paragraph:

In addition to knowing the identity and physical configuration of the network devices themselves, it is also important for the network manager to be able to monitor logical connections between network devices. A logical connection exists between network devices when at least one port of a first network device is configured so that a message sent out through that port would arrive at a known destination (either a network address or a second network device). The destination may be a particular port or interface on another network device, a particular IP address, or a particular subnetwork. One system used to discover logical links between network devices is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/029,123, filed December 19, 2001, titled "Method and Apparatus for Automatic Discovery of Logical Links between Network Devices," assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and incorporated by reference herein.

Please delete the paragraph found on page 25, lines 1-14, of the specification and replace it with the following paragraph:

An IP Link can be created via the embodied NMS GUI manually, by SNMP IP Link trap for some routers, or by the auto-discovery process (per co-pending Application No.10/029,123, "Method and Apparatus for Automatic Discovery of Logical Links between Network Devices"). An example of

an IP link provisioning GUI window according to at least one embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figure 4, and generally designated example GUI window 400. GUI window 400 typifies what a user would see for provisioning a new point-to-point IP link by opening the New->Link->IP Link->Point-to-Point configuration form (not illustrated). A window title 405 appears at the top of the form to indicate the purpose of the window. The user may select the Link Numbering Type (Numbered or Unnumbered) with Link Numbering Type selection button 407. Link Numbering Type selection button 407 has "Numbered" selected in the example of Figure 4. The user may also select the Link Application (IP Forwarding, IP Forwarding and MPLS, or MPLS) with the Link Application selection button 408. In the same manner, the Link Sub layer Interface (ATM, POS, GigEthernet) may be selected with the Link Sub Layer Interface selection button 409.